

week. Three painted windows have been added, by gift, to the church, two in the new part and one in the chancel.

Sheen.—The Bishop of Lichfield consecrated the rebuilt parish church of St. Luke, Sheen, in the Moorlands of Staffordshire, on 4th inst. This church has been rebuilt at the cost of Mr. Beresford Hope, the patron. Mr. Burlingh, of Leeds, according to the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, was the architect originally employed; but his health having failed, the works were completed, with various alterations, under the care of Mr. W. Butterfield, architect. The present nave is of nearly the same dimensions as the former church, and is of wide span. Its roof is open, with a band of coloured ornament round the cornice. All its windows are filled with stained glass, of the kind called *grisaille*. The tower is open to the church, and has a west window of glowing colours, containing effigies of St. Peter and St. Paul, the work, like all the stained window glass, by Messrs. O'Connor, of London. The east window contains three figures, under canopies, of St. Luke, the patron-saint of the church, St. Chad, and St. Etheldreda; and above, in a sex-foiled opening of the tracery, there is a half figure of our Lord (a "Majesty"), in the attitude of benediction. The south window of the chancel has figures of St. Stephen, the protomartyr, and of St. Alban, the protomartyr of England. The chancel has a stone roof, of considerable height and span, having six bays divided by arched ribs. The three easternmost bays, which are over the sanctuary, are coloured with a slight pattern. There is a screen with gates under the chancel arch, and stalls with subseats on each side. The sanctuary is raised on several steps, and the altar, richly vested, stands beneath a reredos of polished alabaster, in which is inlaid a cross of red Derbyshire marble, with circles of black marble on each side. This and the font were wrought by Mr. Oldfield, of Ashford. An arched door opens from the north side of the chancel into a double vestry, which is the work of Mr. Butterfield. It is of stone, the external roof being of very high pitch, while internally it is open to the ridge, with solid ribs. Mr. Lomas was the mason employed in the completion of the works. The former works in the church were executed by Mr. Taylor, of Coventry. The organ, built by Walker, of London, has a Gothic case of open tracery, and stands on the ground in the nave on the south side of the chancel-arch. This position, according to our authority, is effective for sound, being so near the singers. A peal of six bells has been presented to the church by Mr. Beresford Hope, from the foundry of Messrs. Mears, of Whitechapel. This is the only peal of more than three bells for many miles round. Mr. Dent, of London, has fixed a new clock in the tower. On the south side of the school a parsonage-house is now building, by Mr. Myer, of London, from the designs of Mr. Butterfield. The old village cross, the stump of which remained on a small green before the church, has been restored, and on the day of consecration was ornamented with flowers and shrubs. A sort of triumphal arch of boughs and flowers was also erected over the church-yard gate.

Darlington.—The consecration of the newly-erected church of St. George, Darlington, took place on Tuesday week. It is built of stone, in the First Pointed style, and consists of a nave, with a tower surmounted by a spire at the north-west angle, north and south aisles, chancel, and robing-room, and a western gallery in the nave for children. There are two entrances—one at the west end, through the tower, the other by a south porch. The tower is incomplete for want of funds, and is only carried a little higher than the aisle roof. The edifice will accommodate 473 adults (150 seats being appropriated) and 200 children. The architects are Messrs. Johnson and Son, of Lichfield, and the builders Messrs. Higham, of Wolverhampton. Messrs. Johnson gave the font, and Messrs. Higham the encaustic tiles in front of communion rails. The east window was the gift of Mr. Robert Drury, of Sheffield.

Darlington.—The local gas company has recently declared a dividend at the rate of ten per cent. per annum.

Staindrop.—The ancient church of Staindrop, in the county of Durham, has lately received at the hands of its vicar, the Rev. H. C. Lipscomb, a history and pictorial illustration, which has been published for the benefit of all interested in ecclesiastical architecture. The engravings are numerous. This church contains some memorials of the Nevilles and Vane.

Whitehaven.—Great excitement, says a provincial paper, has been caused, and much damage done to property, in Whitehaven, by the giving way of the foundation of a great many houses in consequence of part of the tunnel sinking which joins the Whitehaven and Furness with the Whitehaven and Carlisle Railway. A great many of the houses are uninhabited; and most of the inmates of Scotch-street workhouses have been removed. The floor of one house is said to have sunk upwards of 30 feet.

BUILDINGS AND DOINGS IN HULL AND LEEDS.

I have been spending a day or two at the important towns of Hull and Leeds; and being unable to repress any strong feelings that arise on inspecting public buildings and institutions, I leave to thy discretion the insertion of the following free remarks:—

At Hull the only objects I noticed are the Wilberforce Monument and the Baths and Washhouses.

It is impossible to advert to any memento in honour of the great and Christian patriot Wilberforce without, at the same time, recalling the noble and interesting one in York—"The School for the Blind!" Nor is it other than a problem, not easily solvable in the writer's mind, how the sagacious worthies of the town of King-ton-upon-Hull contrived to stumble upon so senseless an idea as a lofty column in the very centre of crowded streets; the statue surmounting which never being seen but by either a sort of under-perspective, with an up-turned eye; or, if at a distance, at the entire expense of any recognition of the features of him whom this folly is designed to commemorate, and which when seen conveys but a transient—yea, ephemeral association of the great man himself. Whereas at York, a perpetually flowing stream of philanthropic good at once attests the city's admiration of the virtuous statesman, and the truly noble object of the institution erected to his memory.

The other public establishment, of which I had heard much and was desirous to visit, was the Baths and Washhouses, on which, if report say truly, a sum of not less than 14,000*l.* has been expended. The situation of this important adjunct to the sanitary provisions of the town of Hull was, as the writer thinks, well chosen, being in a back street, and in the midst of a dense population. Much money has been spent upon the frittered and semi-Elizabethan front, which professes to adorn its exterior, at the principal entrance. The writer, whose professional pursuits as an architect have now ceased for seventeen or eighteen years, has no hesitation in asserting his confident belief that the amount expended on this one establishment might, with judicious management, have sufficed for the erection of three similar ones in different parts of the town.

Another large edifice, of recent erection, demands a word of notice,—the new Workhouse, on the right of the line as you approach the station. Although but a hasty glance was taken, the writer cannot withhold the expression of his admiration of much that his limited time permitted him to inspect. He dare not, however, quit the town of Hull without coming back to the condemnatory, in relation to a new Dissenting College, on the left of the road to the cemetery.

This kind of institution seems a favourite here; but, alas! a previous one is now converted into almshouses, and that which seized the writer's astonished vision, is in a condition alike disgraceful to whatever society instituted

it, and to the town, as tolerating its neglected appearance. The main mass of the building in its principal front is a staring white;—while the columns of the portico are left to the dingy colour of their original stone! A broken window, grass-grown carriage drive, and miserably defective pallings behind, denote altogether either some grievous mismanagement, or want of success, in the object of its original erection.

So much for my hasty visit to Hull; and now for Leeds:—

A friendly appointment with an official personage brought me last week to that busy and improving mart of the woollen stuff trade; and without dwelling on its many public and protean edifices, civil and ecclesiastical, the writer is glad to find that, in the march of sanitary progress, Leeds is setting a spirited example. Its drainage, in a most efficient style, is now rapidly going on, and in another twelve or eighteen months will leave the town scarcely behind any other in this one important respect.

A new insurance office, in a central and commanding situation, is also about to be erected.

Would that the writer could stop here, and thus record only the language of approval of the town's doings in the way of buildings; but now, alas! comes the text of the heading to his present letter, "Buildings and Doings." At the office of one of the respectable and numerous architects residing in Leeds, the writer was shown in "THE BUILDER," an advertisement emanating from the Corporation for a new Town Hall and Courts of Justice, which nothing short of seeing would have induced the writer to believe could have been perpetrated by any sensible body of men, surrounded by practical persons who could have undeceived them as to their utter ignorance of the profession of an architect, displayed in the advertisement in question. By its terms, every competing candidate is expected to supply, not only fair plans, elevations, sections, and general estimate of the proposed extensive building, as is usual in all competitions, but such "*working drawings and detailed specification*," as shall enable the committee to obtain estimates for the execution of the works; reserving, at the same time, the right of discarding even the party whose design they adopt. A grosser insult to a liberal profession never was offered! For all this, premiums of 200*l.*, 100*l.* and 50*l.* are offered. From some considerable knowledge of the real history of such requirements, the writer unhesitatingly states, that it would require more than the largest of these three premiums to pay even the salaries of drawing clerks engaged completing the stipulated requirements.

Not a word more need be said, surely, to justify the writer in his strong and unhesitating condemnation of the Corporation of Leeds, in issuing the advertisement to which he has referred, and which he further condemns for the exceedingly limited time given for sending in the designs.

These are days of progress, friend Editor, in all the arts, and conveniences—and, it must be added—the duties of life, such as society now demands; and I, for one, should be wanting in respect for the profession which I love and honour, not less as an amateur, than as a former member, did I forbear entering my strongest protest against the ignorance and unreasonableness of those who have sanctioned the advertisement now animadverted upon.

In the sincere hope, that these remarks may lead the Corporation of Leeds to retrace their steps, and issue a more fitting notice of their intentions,—I am, &c. E. S. R.

FRAUGHTFUL QUARRYING ACCIDENT.—At Llanyattoch, Monmouthshire, are several large limestone quarries, on which a great number of men are employed. On Friday week, from some hitherto unexplained cause, the side of one of these quarries gave way; about 60,000 tons were detached; and two unfortunate men, if not several more, were buried beneath the fallen mass. It was expected that some days would elapse before they could be reached.